

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for providing an electronic mail virtual private network in a supply
2 chain management framework, comprising:
 - 3 a) collecting data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain utilizing a network,
4 the data relating to the sale of goods by the outlets;
 - 5 b) allowing access to the data utilizing a network-based interface;
 - 6 c) processing the data; and
 - 7 d) sending the processed data to at least one of a supplier, a distributor and the
8 outlets in the supply chain utilizing electronic mail transmitted over the network.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the processed data is sent to the supplier, the
2 distributor, and the outlets.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the supplier, the distributor, and the outlets are
2 registered with a process including the collection of electronic mail addresses
3 thereof.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the processed data includes forecasting,
2 promotion planning, and ordering.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the processed data is sent to a supplier, a
2 distributor, and outlets indicated by the data.
- 1 7. A system for providing an electronic mail virtual private network in a supply
2 chain management framework, comprising:

- 3 a) logic for collecting data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain utilizing a
- 4 network, the data relating to the sale of goods by the outlets;
- 5 b) logic for allowing access to the data utilizing a network-based interface;
- 6 c) logic for processing the data; and
- 7 d) logic for sending the processed data to at least one of a supplier, a distributor and
- 8 the outlets in the supply chain utilizing electronic mail transmitted over the
- 9 network.

1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1 9. The system of claim 7, wherein the processed data is sent to the supplier, the
2 distributor, and the outlets.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the supplier, the distributor, and the outlets are
2 registered with a process including the collection of electronic mail addresses
3 thereof.

1 11. The system of claim 7, wherein the processed data includes forecasting,
2 promotion planning, and ordering.

1 12. The system of claim 7, wherein the processed data is sent to a supplier, a
2 distributor, and outlets indicated by the data.

1 13. A computer program product for providing an electronic mail virtual private
2 network in a supply chain management framework, comprising:

- 3 a) computer code for collecting data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain
- 4 utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of goods by the outlets;
- 5 b) computer code for allowing access to the data utilizing a network-based interface;
- 6 c) computer code for processing the data; and

7 d) computer code for sending the processed data to at least one of a supplier, a
 8 distributor and the outlets in the supply chain utilizing electronic mail transmitted
 9 over the network.

1 14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the
 2 Internet.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the processed data is sent to
 2 the supplier, the distributor, and the outlets.

1 16. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the supplier, the distributor,
 2 and the outlets are registered with a process including the collection of electronic
 3 mail addresses thereof.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the processed data includes
 2 forecasting, promotion planning, and ordering.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the processed data is sent to
 2 a supplier, a distributor, and outlets indicated by the data.